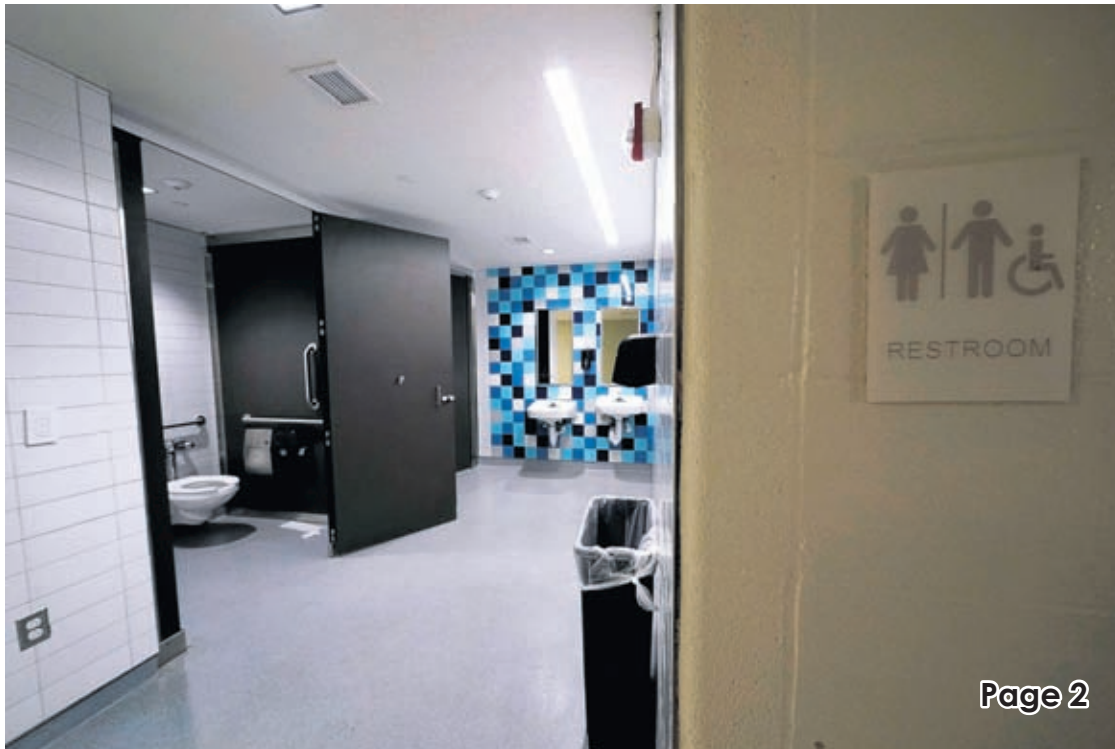




Aruba's English news leader and ultimate guide to paradise

Officials may not know how laws on transgender bathrooms they will be enforced



A newly-constructed gender neutral bathroom is seen at Shawnee Mission East High School, Friday, June 16, 2023, in Prairie Village, Kan.

Associated Press



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North Dakota House Majority Leader Rep. Chet Pollert, R-Carrington, second from left, gestures toward House Speaker Rep. Kim Koppelman, R-West Fargo, far right, prior to the start of the floor session and votes on whether to override three vetoes by Gov. Doug Burgum, which includes a bill restricting transgender girls from participating in public elementary and secondary school sports, Thursday, April 22, 2021, at the state Capitol in Bismarck, N.D.

Associated Press

From Front

By JACK DURA, J. HANNA and SEAN MURPHY

Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) —

When North Dakota restricted which bathrooms transgender students can use in public schools and universities this year, the school district in the state's largest city promised to ignore the new rules. A Republican legislator then called for confiscating its state funding, but the law doesn't include that possibility.

The defiance in Fargo shows that it's not exactly clear how bathroom laws will play out in local communities after being enacted in at least 10 states with Republican-controlled legislatures.

In Kansas, GOP state Attorney General Kris Kobach said Monday that his state's new law, which takes effect Saturday, gives schools a legal defense if transgender students argue that it's discriminatory not to let them use facilities in line with their gender identity. Parents and students will be able to sue one another, he said, but the law does not create a right to sue schools.

Even Florida's law, allowing the state to threaten the licenses of educators who don't comply, says a transgender student or staffer must first be asked to leave a restroom and refuse.

Some schools already have gender-neutral bathrooms

and changing spaces or allow trans students to use staff restrooms. In others, trans students try to make it through the day without using a restroom.

Advocates for transgender people worry that bullying will increase.

"Especially in smaller towns where, say, that bullying could be really bad because transgender individuals are really misunderstood," said Caedmon Marx, outreach chair for LGBTQ+ advocacy group Dakota OutRight and a 23-year-old nonbinary Bismarck State University student.

While the laws focus mostly on transgender students, critics believe they also encourage harassment of trans adults at work and while they're shopping and eating out — and even harassment of cisgender people, or those whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth.

"By men, I get harassed for going into a women's restroom because people think that — the way I look, the way I dress, they way my hair is — that I'm a man," Kansas state Rep. Susan Ruiz, a Kansas City-area Democrat and a lesbian, said during a debate over the Kansas bathroom measure. "This is going to just open up the doors for that."

North Carolina Republicans enacted a bathroom law in 2016 but rolled it back following protests and economic boycotts. A new

wave of anti-LGBTQ+ measures began building in 2020, when Idaho enacted the nation's first law barring transgender athletes from girls and women's sports. State lawmakers across the U.S. considered hundreds of proposals this year.

Supporters argue that bathroom laws protect the privacy of cisgender women and girls. They've also pitched the laws as safety measures, without citing evidence of threats or assaults by transgender people against cisgender women or girls.

In North Dakota, Republican state Rep. Robin Weisz, chair of a committee that handled bathroom legislation, said some lawmakers worried about "being taken over by a radical agenda" on gender identity.

A GOP colleague, state Rep. Bill Tveit, said: "Our whole society is catering to it and encouraging it, and I don't think that that's where we're at, nor should be." States' laws vary in their sweep.

Florida and North Dakota are applying their restrictions to state universities and prisons. Arkansas is making it a misdemeanor for transgender adults to be in any public changing room associated with their gender identities if a minor is present and the purpose is "arousing or gratifying a sexual desire." Kansas' law applies not just to restrooms and locker rooms, but to rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, prisons

Officials may not know how laws on transgender bathrooms they will be enforced

and other detention centers. State laws also differ in what they say about enforcement.

If an Oklahoma school violates that state's 2022 law, its district can lose 5% of its state funding, though none have so far.

Florida schools and universities must have policies for punishing students who don't comply, and educators who flout the law could risk losing their state licenses. Starting in July 2024, the state attorney general can sue schools that don't comply.

Arkansas mandates a minimum fine of \$1,000 for defiant educators, and Iowa residents can file complaints with the state's attorney general. Arkansas, Idaho, Oklahoma and Tennessee allow private lawsuits against schools.

But laws in Alabama, Kansas, Kentucky and North Dakota don't spell out any enforcement regime.

Transgender, nonbinary and gender-nonconforming people and LGBTQ+ rights advocates predict that states will rely on "vigilante" enforcement by private individuals. Sarah Warbelow, legal director for the Human Rights Campaign, expects lawsuits from people "dedicated to making life impossible for transgender people."

All the laws permit schools and other institutions to make special accommodations for trans students, such as providing gender-neutral bathrooms, so long as they aren't allowed into facilities associated with their gender identities.

In Kansas' largest school district in Wichita, schools already have worked with individual students and their parents to make accommodations. In northeastern Iowa, the Decorah school district sought guidance on what the signs outside its single-use restrooms should say.

"We're following the law,"

Superintendent Tim Cronin said. "We're not trying to editorialize on any of this."

In Des Moines, Iowa, the school district already had been preparing for a bathroom law for several years, and "the facilities were in place" when the state's law was enacted, spokesperson Phil Roeder said. The Shawnee Mission district in the affluent Kansas suburbs of Kansas City is adding gender-neutral restrooms, too, with most of the work completed.

But in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Al Stone-Gebhardt, an 18-year-old transgender man, recently graduated from a high school that didn't have gender-neutral restrooms. After using the girls restroom during his junior year, he planned to use the nurse's but was turned away the first day of his senior year.

His mother, Erika DuBose, acknowledged "flipping out" when her son texted her about it. She sent an email to school staff that demanded, "HOW DARE YOU DENY MY CHILD THEIR BIOLOGICAL NEEDS?" To avoid using any restroom at school, her son was wasn't eating or drinking much. The school became more accommodating, they said.

"It is literally putting trans students at risk," Stone-Gebhardt said. "Having to choose between being hydrated and being outed is extremely traumatic and inherently problematic, as well." Warbelow said states can expect some "civil disobedience."

In the liberal community of Lawrence in northeastern Kansas, the home of the University of Kansas' main campus, the local district attorney declared that she wouldn't prosecute violations of the new state law. Kobach dismissed those comments as meaningless, saying the Kansas law doesn't call for criminal prosecutions. □

High-speed internet is a necessity, President Biden says, pledging all U.S. will have access by 2030

By KAVISH HARJAI and SEUNG MIN KIM

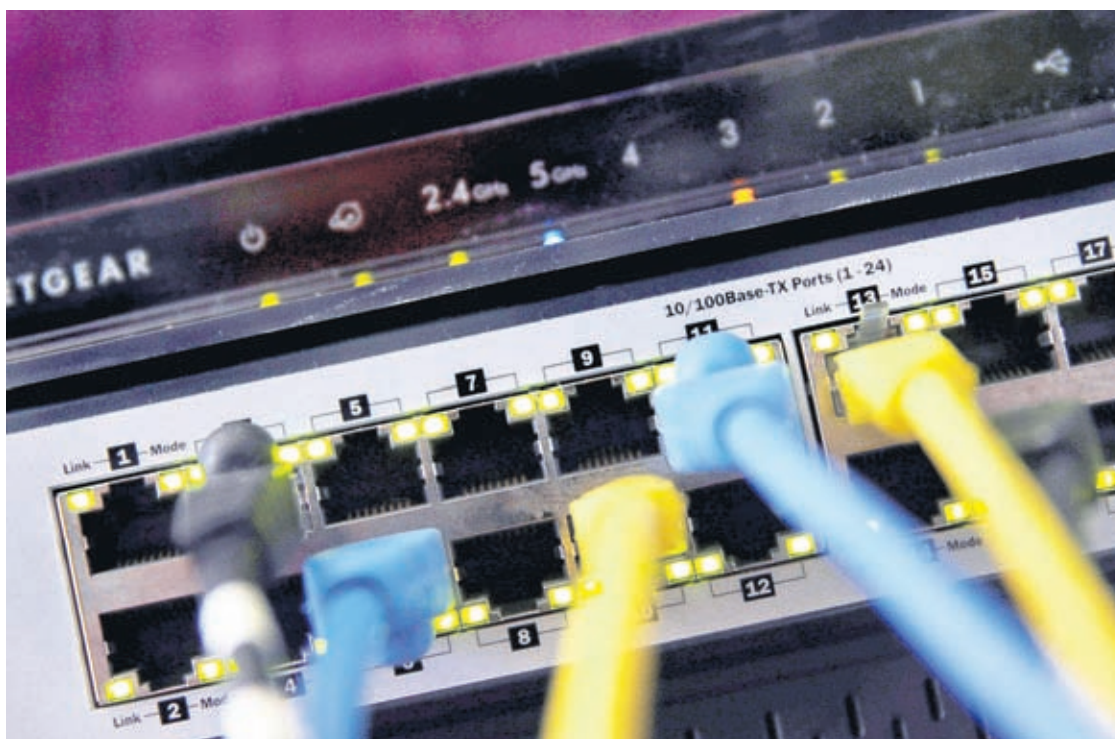
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Monday said that high-speed internet is no longer a luxury but an “absolute necessity,” as he pledged that every household in the nation would have access by 2030 using cables made in the U.S.

“These investments will help all Americans,” he said. “We’re not going to leave anyone behind.”

Biden announced that more than \$40 billion would be distributed across the country to deliver high-speed internet in places where there’s either no service, or service is too slow.

“But it’s not enough to have access you need affordability and access,” the president said, adding that his administration is working with service providers to bring down costs on what is now a household utility like water or gas but often remains priced at a premium. With Monday’s announcement, the administration is launching the second phase of its “Investing in America” tour. The three-week blitz of speeches and events is designed to promote Biden’s previous legislative wins on in-



A router and internet switch are displayed in East Derry, N.H., June 19, 2018.

Associated Press

frastructure, the economy and climate change going into a reelection year. The president and his advisers believe voters don’t know enough about his policies heading into his 2024 reelection campaign and that more voters would back him once they learn more.

Biden’s challenge is that investments in computer chips and major infrastructure projects such as rail tunnels can take a decade to come to fruition. That leaves much of the mes-

saging focused on grants that will be spent over time, rather than completed projects.

The internet access funding amounts depended primarily on the number of unserved locations in each jurisdiction or those locations that lack access to internet download speeds of at least 25 megabits per second download and upload speeds of 3 Mbps. Download speeds involve retrieving information from the internet, including streaming movies and TV.

Upload speeds determine how fast information travels from a computer to the internet, like sending emails or publishing photos online. The funding includes more than \$1 billion each for 19 states, with remaining states falling below that threshold. Allotments range from \$100.7 million for Washington, D.C., to \$3.3 billion for Texas.

Biden said more than 35,000 projects are already funded or underway to lay cable that provides internet access. Some of those

are from \$25 billion in initial funding as part of the “American Rescue Plan.”

“High-speed internet isn’t a luxury anymore,” he said. “It’s become an absolute necessity.”

More than 7% of the country falls in the underserved category, according to the Federal Communications Commission’s analysis.

Congress approved the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program, along with several other internet expansion initiatives, through the infrastructure bill Biden signed in 2021.

Earlier this month, the Commerce Department announced winners of middle mile grants, which will fund projects that build the mid-section of the infrastructure necessary to extend internet access to every part of the country.

States have until the end of the year to submit proposals outlining how they plan to use that money, which won’t begin to be distributed until those plans are approved. Once the Commerce Department signs off on those initial plans, states can award grants to telecommunications companies, electric co-ops and other providers to expand internet infrastructure. □

The U.S. government is awarding \$1.7B to buy electric and low-emission buses



A Lion electric school bus is seen on display in Austin, Texas, Feb. 22, 2023.

Associated Press

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Department of Transportation is awarding almost \$1.7 billion in grants for buying zero- and low-emission buses, with the money going to transit projects in 46 states and territories.

The grants will enable transit agencies and state and local governments to buy 1,700 U.S.-built buses, nearly half of which will have zero carbon emissions. Funding for the grants comes from

the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure bill signed into law by President Joe Biden. The Democratic president has made it a priority to put more electric vehicles on the road especially for schools and public transit in an effort to contain the damage from climate change.

“Every day, millions of Americans climb aboard over 60,000 buses to get to work, to school, doctor’s appointments, everywhere they need to be,”

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a call with reporters. “These are unprecedented levels of investment when it comes to putting modern cleaner buses on the road.”

Monday’s announcement covers the second round of grants for buses and supporting infrastructure. All told, the U.S. has invested a total of \$3.3 billion in the projects so far. Government officials expect to award roughly \$5 billion more over the next three years. □

First U.N. investigator at US detention center at Guantanamo says detainees face cruel treatment

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The first U.N. independent investigator to visit the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay said Monday the 30 men held there are subject "to ongoing cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment under international law."

The investigator, Irish law professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, said at a news conference launching her 23-page report to the U.N. Human Rights Council that the 2001 attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania that killed nearly 3,000 people were "crimes against humanity." But she said the U.S. use of torture and rendition against alleged perpetrators and their associates in the years right after the attacks violated international human rights law.

Ní Aoláin said her visit marked the first time a U.S. administration has allowed a U.N. investigator to visit the facility, which opened in 2002.

She praised the Biden administration for leading by example by opening up



In this photo reviewed by U.S. military officials, the control tower of Camp VI detention facility is seen on April 17, 2019, in Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba.

Guantanamo and "being prepared to address the hardest human rights issues," and urged other countries that have barred U.N. access to detention facilities to follow suit. And she said she was given access to everything she asked for, including holding meetings at the facility in Cuba with "high value" and "non-high

value" detainees.

The United States said in a submission to the Human Rights Council on the report's findings that the special investigator's findings "are solely her own" and "the United States disagrees in significant respects with many factual and legal assertions" in her report.

Ní Aoláin said "significant improvements" have been made to the confinement of detainees, but expressed "serious concerns about the continued detention of 30 men, who she said face severe insecurity, suffering and anxiety."

She cited examples including near constant surveillance, forced removal from

their cells and unjust use of restraints.

"I observed that after two decades of custody, the suffering of those detained is profound, and it's ongoing," the U.N. special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism said.

"Every single detainee I met with lives with the unrelenting harms that follow from systematic practices of rendition, torture and arbitrary detention."

She made a long series of recommendations and said the prison at Guantanamo Bay should be closed.

The U.S. response, submitted by the American ambassador to the Human Rights Council, Michele Taylor, said Ní Aoláin was the first U.N. special rapporteur to visit Guantanamo and had been given "unprecedented access" with "the confidence that the conditions of confinement at Guantanamo Bay are humane and reflect the United States' respect for and protection of human rights for all who are within our custody." □

Associated Press

Supreme Court lets lawsuits over team doctor's sexual abuse proceed against Ohio State

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday left in place a decision that allows more than 230 men to sue Ohio State University over decades-old sexual abuse by a university doctor, the late Richard Strauss. Two cases involving the abuse were on a list of many cases the court said it would not hear. And, as is typical, the court did not comment in saying it would not hear the cases.

Ohio State University had urged the court to review a ruling by the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that revived lawsuits that had been dismissed. The men who sued are among hundreds of former student-

athletes and other alumni who say they were abused by Strauss, who worked at the school from 1978 to 1998.

They say university officials failed to stop him despite complaints raised as early as the late 1970s. Many of them allege Strauss abused them during required physicals and other medical exams at campus athletic facilities, a student health center, his home and an off-campus clinic.

Strauss killed himself in 2005 at age 67. The university in 2018 announced an investigation into Strauss' abuse and the university's conduct. It has apologized to his victims and reached

over \$60 million in settlements with at least 296 people.

But the university eventually sought to have the remaining unsettled cases dismissed, arguing that the time limit for the claims had long passed.

The remaining plaintiffs have argued that they filed timely claims and that the time limit didn't start running until the 2018 investigation into Strauss' abuse made his conduct public. The men say that was when they first learned that the school had been aware of Strauss' abuse and failed to protect them from him. Many also only realized then that they'd been vic-

tims of abuse since Strauss disguised his abuse as medical care, their lawyers said. In a statement, lawyers

for the plaintiffs said they were pleased the Supreme Court decided not to hear the cases. □



The U.S. Supreme Court is seen Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

Israel OK's plans for thousands of new settlement home

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's far-right government on Monday approved plans to build over 5,000 new homes in Jewish settlements in the West Bank, Israeli media said, a move that threatened to worsen increasingly strained relations with the United States.

The decision defied growing U.S. criticism of Israel's settlement policies. It also raised tensions with the Palestinians at a time of rising violence in the occupied territory.

Multiple Israeli media outlets said the Defense Ministry planning committee that oversees settlement construction approved some 5,700 new settlement homes. The units are at various stages of planning, and it was not immediately clear when construction would begin. COGAT, the defense body in charge of the planning committee, did not respond to requests for comment.

The international community, along with the Palestinians, considers settlement construction illegal or ille-



This file photo shows a part of new housing projects in the West Bank Israeli settlement of Givat Ze'ev, Monday, June 18, 2023.

gitimate and obstacles to peace. Over 700,000 Israelis now live in the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem territories captured by Israel in 1967 and sought by the Palestinians for a future state.

"The Netanyahu government is moving forward with its aggression and

open war against the Palestinian people," said Wasel Abu Yousef, a Palestinian official in the West Bank. "We affirm that all settler colonialism in all the occupied Palestinian territories is illegitimate and illegal."

Peace Now, an anti-settlement watchdog group, said Israel has now ap-

proved over 13,000 settlement housing units this year. That is nearly three times the number of homes approved in all of 2022 and marks the most approvals in any year since it began systematically tracking the planning procedures in 2012.

Israel's government, which

took office in late December, is dominated by religious and ultranationalist politicians with close ties to the settlement movement. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, a firebrand settler leader, has been granted Cabinet-level authority over settlement policies and has vowed to double the settler population in the West Bank.

The Biden Administration has been increasingly outspoken in its criticism of Israel's settlement policies. Earlier this month, Secretary of State Antony Blinken called the settlements "an obstacle to the horizon of hope we seek" in a speech to the pro-Israel lobbying group AIPAC.

Despite the criticism, the U.S. has taken little action against Israel. In a sign of its displeasure, the White House has not yet invited Netanyahu for a visit — as is customary following Israeli elections.

And this week, the U.S. said it would not transfer funds to Israeli institutions for science and technology research projects in the West Bank. □

Associated Press

Spain announces new department to study effects of very hot weather on health

By JENNIFER O'MAHONY

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain sweltered in its first official heat wave of the year on Monday as the government

announced a new department to investigate and alleviate the effects of extreme temperatures on human health.

The state weather agency,

AEMET, said temperatures were predicted to hit 44 degrees Celsius (111 degrees Fahrenheit) in the country's south during the hot spell, expected to last until Thursday, and noted that heat waves have become more common during the month of June over the last 12 years.

Ecological Transition Minister Teresa Ribera said the country's rising temperatures put vulnerable populations at risk, and more work is needed to understand how to prepare for longer, hotter summers. "We must investigate what happens to our bodies in response to the effects of climate change, in order to mitigate the consequences on our health," Ribera said.

The proposal to create the new department, called the Observatory for Health and Climate Change, will be presented to Spain's Cabinet next month ahead of a snap general election on July 23.

Spain has already banned outdoor work during periods of extreme heat after the death of a municipal worker in Madrid last summer, and set legal maximum and minimum temperatures for workplaces. The city of Barcelona also operates a network of more than 200 climate shelters to shield people from the heat.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch warned that the country was not doing enough to protect people

with disabilities from extreme temperatures.

"People with disabilities are at high risk of harm from exposure to extreme heat, including risk of death and physical, social, and mental health distress, especially when they are left to cope with dangerous temperatures on their own," said Jonas Bull, assistant disability rights researcher at the organization.

Spanish researchers at the Carlos III Health Institute recently published a paper showing that urban environments without tree cover or adapted building materials can experience temperatures up to 11 C (20 F) higher than the nearby countryside. □



A woman crosses the street with a sun umbrella in Madrid, Spain, Saturday, June 24, 2023.

Associated Press

Thousands of North Koreans march as country marks Korean War anniversary

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG**

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

Tens of thousands of North Koreans marched in anti-U.S. rallies over the week-end, pledging "merciless" revenge against "U.S. imperialists," as the country marked the 73rd anniversary of the start of the Korean War, state media said Monday.

More than 120,000 people participated in Sunday's mass rallies in the nation's capital, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said.

While the 1950-53 conflict was triggered by a North Korean surprise attack, the demonstrators mobilized in Pyongyang promoted their government's version of events and accused the United States of provoking the war and leaving Koreans with "wounds ... that can never be healed."

Meanwhile in South Korea, a North Korean defector-turned-activist said he flew balloons carrying some



Pyongyang people take part in a demonstration after a mass rally to mark what North Korea calls "the day of struggle against U.S. imperialism" at the May Day Stadium in Pyongyang, North Korea Sunday, June 25, 2023.

Associated Press

200,000 anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets and COVID-19 medical supplies across the border Sunday night, continuing his yearslong campaigns that have often triggered angry responses from the North.

Photos sent by Park Sang-hak showed a placard with a picture of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and a message that highlighted how his grandfather, Kim Il Sung, was responsible for starting the Korean War.

The North has not commented on Park's latest ballooning stint.

North Korea is extremely sensitive about any outside attempt to undermine Kim's leadership and weaken his absolute control over the

country's 26 million people. At the rallies Sunday, North Koreans also expressed pride in Kim's expanding nuclear weapons and missile programs, insisting their country now has the "strongest absolute weapon to punish the U.S. imperialists and the war deterrence for self-defense which no enemy dare provoke."

Photos published by the North's Rodong Sinmun newspaper showed a stadium packed with likely tens of thousands of people in COVID-19 masks, raising their fists in the air and holding signs that read: "Let's eradicate U.S. imperialist invaders" and "The entire U.S. mainland is within our striking range."

In their latest telephone discussion over North Korea, the U.S. and South Korean nuclear envoys accused Pyongyang of distorting history by repeating old claims that the United States caused the Korean War, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said. □

Myanmar burns \$446 million worth of seized drugs

BANGKOK (AP) — The authorities in Myanmar destroyed more than \$446 million worth of illegal drugs seized from around the country to mark an annual international anti-drug trafficking day on Monday, police said.

The drug burn came as U.N. experts warned of increases in the production of opium, heroin and methamphetamine in Myanmar, with exports threatening to expand markets in South and Southeast Asia.

Myanmar has a long history of drug production linked to political and economic insecurity caused by decades of armed conflict. The country is a major producer and exporter of methamphetamine and the world's second-largest opium and heroin producer after Afghanistan, de-

spite repeated attempts to promote alternative legal crops among poor farmers. In the country's largest city, Yangon, a pile of seized drugs and precursor chemicals worth \$207 million was incinerated. The destroyed drugs included opium, heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana, kratom, ketamine and crystal meth, also known as ice.

The burn coincided with the U.N.'s International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Authorities also destroyed drugs in the central city of Mandalay and in Taunggyi, the capital of eastern Shan state, both closer to the main drug production and distribution areas.

Last year, authorities burned a total of more than \$642 million worth of seized drugs.

Experts have warned that violent political unrest in Myanmar following the military takeover two years ago which is now akin to a civil war between the military government and its pro-democracy opponents has caused an increase in drug production.

The production of opium in Myanmar has flourished since the military's seizure of power, with the cultivation of poppies up by a third in the past year as eradication efforts have dropped off and the faltering economy has pushed more people toward the drug trade, according to a report by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime earlier this year.

Estimates of opium production were 400 metric tons (440 tons) in 2020, rising slightly in 2021, and then



Smokes and flames billow from burning illegal narcotics during a destruction ceremony marking International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on the outskirts of Yangon, Myanmar, Monday, June 26, 2023.

Associated Press

spiking in 2022 to an estimated 790 metric tons (870 tons), according to the report.

The U.N. agency has also warned of a huge increase in recent years in the production of methamphetamine, driving down prices and reaching markets through new smuggling routes.

The military government says some ethnic armed

organizations that control large swaths of remote territory produce illicit drugs to fund their insurgencies and do not cooperate in the country's peace process as they do not wish to relinquish the benefits they gain from the drug trade. Historically, some rebel ethnic groups have also used drug profits to fund their struggle for greater autonomy from the central government. □

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Emergency services

Even though most people don't even want to think about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or se-

vere incident.

Police: 100

Police Tipline: 11141

Ambulance: 911

Fire Dept: 115

Oranjestad: HOH hospital: +297-527-4000

San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two

round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may



vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Taxis

Prices for taxi fair are set by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers,



but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

Safety

Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe. □

Visit the island's hidden natural pools

(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two “hidden” natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known “Cura di Turtuga (Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by



a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side

of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It's also relatively deep,

and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Cave Pool

This relatively new pool ap-



peared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it's still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won't be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder. □

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours



Remember Amuse Bistro?...

They're back with a new concept; The Journey



Known for their successful and top-notch establishments Amuse Bistro and Amuse Sunset, Chef Patrick van der Donk and his wife Yvette, who is a certified sommelier, are back with their latest gastronomic adventure that is now to be found at The Journey, beside the famous red windmill (De Olde Moulin) just off Eagle Beach, and will surely bring a brand new concept to take you on a culinary journey you will never forget.

A family of 5, Chef Patrick, his wife Yvette and their 8 year old triplet sons, started their trajectory about a decade ago, with the renowned and loved Amuse Bistro that saw immense success. Due to a tragic incident in which the restaurant burned down, they gathered all their strength and continued their success at a new location behind the airport, as a brand new beginning named Amuse Sunset until they saw it come to an end. After overcoming unforeseen circumstances like the pandemic, the family is stronger than ever and reading to begin a new adventure and welcome you aboard.

The Journey offers a brand new, elegant and chic concept. Taking the table in 'Chef's Table' to heart, this new interpretation of 'chef's table' features stand-alone tables which seat only 20 patrons, all who must arrive before 7pm. Once you choose to embark on this adventure, the night will start once you arrived at your destination, right next to the mill in Palm Beach, where you will be welcomed with a toast of bubbles (on the house) on the terrace while you wait for the beginning of an unforgettable night. Once the clock hits 7pm, you will be taken into the restaurant for a magical five-course Chef's choice pre-fixed menu that will take your taste buds on a high class world tour.

You can opt to pair your courses with the sommelier's expertly curated choice of fine wines by the glass or order a bottle from their impressive wine list. With an open kitchen concept, you get to witness the chef bring his inspiration and creations to life. By the end of the night, you are guaranteed to have made a few new friends with whom you've enjoyed a wonderful experience of culinary bliss.

The Journey is open from Mon-Fri and is reservation only, we ask that all guests with a reservation arrive before 7pm. For further questions or information, refer to their website <https://thejourneyaruba.com/> or contact Yvette at +297 565 0535

Make your reservation today and have a 'Bon Voyage!' ☑



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Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one of Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing

atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for



big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach sites, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most ac-

cessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down

a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □



Episode 10

Geo insular patrimony: an ancient heritage

Landscape character Part 2



The Quartzdiorite (QD) landscape in Sta. Cruz, Tanki Flip, Noord, Alto Vista and Sabaneta as mentioned, is where a number of relatively deep guts or dry rivers are to be found. The considerable amount of weathered material on top of the diorite basement is cut through by water during rainfall. Many of these guts contain large amounts

of QD debris. This debris is the main geological component of the area around Sabaneta.

The QD basement of these guts is impermeable, forming shallow natural water-reservoirs in the upperlying detritus. The modern water-reservoirs are mostly made near these dry rivers in the QD landscape. Most banks

of these dry rivers show a black top soil layer forming an ideal place for vegetation. These favorable hydrological- and soil conditions of this landscape have been evident to Amerindians. The Hooiberg (166 m), a conical-shaped hill west of Santa Cruz is situated in the middle of the typical QD landscape.



The main component of this hill is hooibergite. Other "foreign" phenomena in the QD landscape are the small hills at the north coast. Here gabbro is the main component. Although of different appearance, physical and landscape-forming characteristics, the QD, hooibergite, and gabbro have a common geological origin and are, in fact, one geological unit, called the batholith. The difference in landscape forming characteristics is the result of the difference in resistance to weathering of these rocks.

Only one of the Preceramic sites is found in the QD landscape. Other Preceramic sites such as Arashi are situated near outcrops of QD. The site Barcadera is near large amounts of QD debris. The vicinity of these areas to the coast is for these two sites of more significance than the QD component, if we consider the characteristics of the pre-ceramic groups. The largest Ceramic sites are situated in the QD-landscape. The favorable hydrological conditions created by the guts and the relatively good agricultural soil in the areas of Santa Cruz, Tanki Flip and Sabaneta, made long-term habitation by the ceramic groups possible. Two large guts run through the sites of Tanki Flip and Santa Cruz. Tanki Flip is in a flat area with only a few boulders. Santa Cruz is in a slightly undulating landscape with many QD-boulders. The guts here are relatively deeper than at Tanki Flip.

Sabaneta is situated at the end of a rooi in a QD-landscape with no boulders. This site is near the

coast where mangroves and small beaches alternate. Another important site which is situated on QD debris is Parkietenbos. Two sites are here, at the east- and west bank of a large gut, the same gut that flows through Santa Cruz. The soil at Parkietenbos is comparable to that in Tanki Flip.

The QD-landscape had a second important function for the prehistoric groups. Pictographs and petroglyphs are found on QD boulders. Most of the pictographs are found in the natural cavities of the boulders. These cavities are a product of chemical weathering of the rock and are always situated on the leeside of the boulder. Twelve of the seventeen rock drawing sites are in the QD landscape. Quartz diorite was used to make a variety of tools. It has the characteristic that it evens out easily after it's chipped. The natural round form made it a good material to make grinding tools and sling-and hammer-stones. The natural cavities were furtherly deepened to make metates.

Ancient Arubans knew very good how to implement what was on hand and even going so far to import types of stones such as chert and jade to make graters for grinding yucca roots in to flour. Ground raw grains, seeds or roots used to make many different foods. Cereal or tuber flour is the main ingredient of ayaca, tamal, empaná, pastechi, tortilla or pan bati (bread, which is the staple food for most Amerindian cultures).

Source; Island Insight column by Etnia Nativa. □

Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Comcomber chiquito



This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vi-

tamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna



In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pompuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Fish in the sky
- 7 Chick sound
- 11 Set straight
- 12 Shrek, for one
- 13 Vehicle in a procession
- 15 Flower part
- 16 Monopoly card
- 18 Use foul language
- 21 Flex
- 22 Phone typer
- 24 Fitting
- 25 Diamond club
- 26 Ewe's mate
- 27 Kramden's pal
- 29 Dyeing tubs
- 30 Beginner
- 31 Openings
- 32 Friend of d'Artagnan
- 34 Where dishes may pile up
- 40 Fix a story
- 41 Flowery shrub
- 42 Departs
- 43 Mrs. Madison

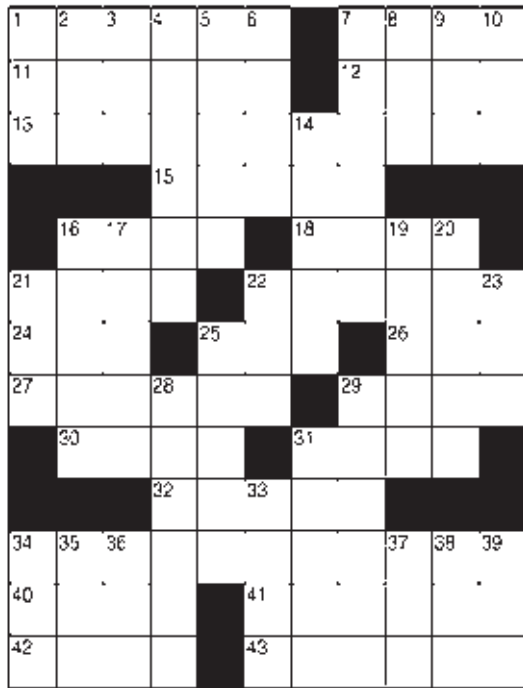
DOWN

- 1 Catchy music

- 2 Radio's Glass
- 3 Knight's address
- 4 Put a stop to
- 5 Put a stop to
- 6 Dance move
- 7 Castor's twin
- 8 Sense of self
- 9 Pitching stat
- 10 Sulky state
- 14 Diamond side
- 16 Bus terminal
- 17 Contest form
- 19 Gown part
- 20 Theater units
- 21 Outlaw
- 22 Sandy color
- 23 Apt. ad abbr.
- 25 Diner choice
- 28 Plots of land
- 29 Lowly worker
- 31 Muppet with a large nose
- 33 Noggin
- 34 Frat party item
- 35 Chapel promise
- 36 Make a bow in
- 37 Unwell
- 38 Maiden name label
- 39 Arthur's step-brother

OBAMA GLASS
RADAR RADII
ENSUE EXALT
RAIN MOE
BARISTAS
ABET ODISTS
NADIA ANNAL
GROUND GOTA
STEPAWAY
SAPIMUP
CLANG MOTEL
ADIEU PROVE
MANTA SEWED

Yesterday's answer



6-27

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-27

CRYPTOQUOTE

V DUHD LBD RJRDQLV JX
BZYYUQDVV. SJKD ZQN ED SJKDN!
LBZL UV LBD JQSC FDZSULC
UQ LBD IJFSN. ZSS DSVD UV
XJSSC. — SDJ LJSVLJC

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT WAS JUNE, AND THE WORLD SMELLED OF ROSES. THE SUNSHINE WAS LIKE POWDERED GOLD OVER THE GRASSY HILLSIDE. — MAUD HART LOVELACE

Safer ways to raid your retirement, if you have to

By LIZ WESTON
of NerdWallet

Raiding your retirement accounts can be expensive. Withdrawing money before age 59½ typically triggers income taxes, a 10% federal penalty and worst of all the loss of future tax-deferred compounded returns. A 30-year-old who withdraws \$1,000 from an individual retirement account or 401(k) could lose more than \$11,000 in future retirement money, assuming 7% average annual returns.

In the past, there were a few ways you could avoid the penalty. Congress recently added several more, and some of those exceptions allow you to repay the money within three years. That would allow you to get a refund of the taxes you paid and best of all allow the money to start growing again, tax deferred, for your future. You're still better off leaving retirement funds alone for retirement, says Erin Itkoe, director of financial planning at Tarbox Family Office, a wealth management firm in Scottsdale, Arizona. If you can't, though, you could at least limit the damage from taking the money out early, she says.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SECURE 2.0

The new penalty exceptions are part of Secure 2.0, a package of retirement plan changes that Congress passed late last year. Some exceptions are available for your IRA right now, while others take effect in coming years, says David Certner, legislative counsel for AARP. The ex-



Cash is fanned out from a wallet in North Andover, Mass., June 15, 2018.

Associated Press

ceptions also can apply to workplace plans, such as 401(k)s or 403(b)s, but it may require your employer to opt in, so check with your human resources department, Certner says. However, the repayment option still isn't available for most penalty exceptions. For example, you can avoid the penalty if you withdraw \$10,000 from an IRA for a first-time home purchase or to pay higher education expenses, but you won't be able to repay the money later and get the taxes refunded.

DISASTERS, TERMINAL ILLNESS AND FAMILY EXPANSION

One new penalty exception that allows for repayment is for disasters. People who live in a federally declared disaster area and suffer an economic loss can withdraw up to \$22,000 penalty-free. Income taxes still have to be paid on the withdrawal but the income can be spread over three years to reduce the potential tax impact. This exemption was made retroactive

to Jan. 26, 2021.

Another potentially large exemption with the repayment option is one for terminal illness. Effective this year, the 10% penalty is waived for people whose doctor certifies that they are expected to die within seven years, says Itkoe, who's also a certified public accountant serving on the American Institute of CPAs' personal financial planning executive committee. There's no limit on how much can be withdrawn.

A three-year repayment period also now applies to the penalty exception when you have or adopt a child. This exception allows each parent a \$5,000 withdrawal within the 12 months after a child is born or adopted. □

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Patricia Field, 'Sex and the City' designer on Carrie's iconic looks, a must-have fashion item

By **BROOKE LEFFERTS**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Costume designer Patricia Field has never liked fashion rules.

The woman who famously combined a tutu with spiky heels on Sarah Jessica Parker in "Sex and the City," and made a plaid bucket hat cool on Lily Collins in "Emily in Paris" has a way of making high fashion feel accessible to the masses. She explains how she does it in the new documentary, "Happy Clothes: A Film About Patricia Field," which recently premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival.

The film is directed by Michael Selditch, who also directed the CNN docu-series "American Style" in 2019. While interviewing Field for that series, he found a bold character with a unique, unconventional style of mixing color and patterns and designer looks with street wear. While at first Field resisted the idea of a documentary crew following her around, she finally relented and says she's pleased with the result.

The Emmy-winning Field, 81, was behind the inventive outfits on "Ugly Betty" and is known for styling films as well, including "The Devil Wears Prada," which earned her an Oscar nod. The Associated Press sat down with Field and Selditch recently to talk about her process, that tutu,



Patricia Field, left, and Michael Selditch pose for a portrait on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, in New York to promote "Happy Clothes: A Film About Patricia Field," which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival.

and which item everyone should have in their closet. Answers have been shortened for brevity and clarity.

AP: How did you get Pat to agree to this documentary?

SELDITCH: I said to her, "You know, anybody can make a documentary on you. We can always find people to sit down and talk about working with you and say wonderful things and throw in archival footage. But that's not exactly the documentary I want to make. I want to watch

your process. I want to see you shop. I want to see you working with actors. I want to really make it verite and watch you work and get inside your head and be a fly on the wall." And I said, "If we don't do it now, when are you going to do it?"

AP: What is a typical costume fitting like for you?

FIELD: There's a person and then there's a character. But behind that character is the person, and it's really important that they feel good because that is, in my mind, my responsi-

bility. It's not about dictating to actors what's good and what's not good. It's about giving them choices and, of course, getting to know them. Once you get to know them, it becomes a little bit more automatic. Like Sarah Jessica Parker, I know her. I worked with her before. I know her taste. It's about the relationship and making sure that the actor in front of that camera is comfortable, positive and ready to go.

AP: Your costumes on "Sex and The City" helped make

designer brands feel more attainable by mixing high fashion accessories with basic off-the-rack clothes. Was that intentional?

FIELD: Let's talk about mixing high and low. I think that you can't just wear high or you can't just wear low. People say, "orange and red don't go together." Well, they go together in a fruit bowl! (smiles) It's nature. And what's wrong with it? So I go by this little philosophy of mine and I tend to not get distracted by mores or rules or whatever comes across. It's just my expression and if I feel good about it and the actor does, then it's fine.

AP: The white tutu and gold "Carrie" necklace have become iconic items. Do you know when you're putting something like that on an actor that it's going to hit?

FIELD: I don't always have that same formula of knowing beforehand what it's going to be. But I have my taste. It's not haphazard for me, and I guess it's my formula and I guess it works for me. It's very important. Dressing someone, man or woman, it's a two way street. They're in the clothes, they need to be happy. I offer the clothes, I have to be satisfied. It's always best to establish a positive relationship and when the actor trusts you, you're home free. □

Book Review: 'The Art Thief' is an astonishing story that capitalizes on our love of true crime

By **KRYSTA FAURIA**

Associated Press

"The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession" by Michael Finkel (Alfred A. Knopf) What is it about stories of transgression that keep us wanting more of them? Tales of heists, con artists and even murders permeate all corners of society, from Dostoevsky to "Tiger King." It is this in-

satiable thirst for accounts of crime and if based on real events, all the better that journalist Michael Finkel exploits in "The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime and a Dangerous Obsession." It recounts the astonishing saga of Stéphane Breitwieser, the notorious art thief who stole hundreds of pieces of art between 1994 and 2001, mostly from museums throughout Eu-

rope a collection which was estimated to be worth around \$2 billion.

The level of detail Finkel is able to provide, thanks to extensive reporting and hours of interviews with Breitwieser himself, is uncomfortably gripping, as if the reader is watching these events unfold and working as an accomplice to the French robber's crimes.

"The Art Thief" is the kind

of book that is worth finishing if its subject matter gets one's attention in the first place, given that the story only gets more scandalous and appalling as it progresses.

Given how much and how often he stole, it is inevitable that recounting so many details of these heists would dull one's senses to each otherwise astonishing feat. □



This cover image released by Knopf shows "The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession" by Michael Finkel.

Associated Press

Alcaraz replaces Djokovic at No. 1 ahead of Wimbledon

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

Carlos Alcaraz replaced Novak Djokovic at No. 1 in the ATP rankings on Monday, meaning the 20-year-old Spaniard is expected to have the top seeding at Wimbledon.

Alcaraz, the reigning U.S. Open champion, is coming off the first grass-court title of his career, which he won Sunday by beating Alex De Minaur in the final at Queen's Club in London, and that helped him rise one spot from No. 2.

Djokovic, who picked up his men's-record 23rd Grand Slam title at the French Open this month, chose not to play any tuneup tournaments on grass ahead of Wimbledon and slid down one place.

It is the sixth time the No. 1 ranking has switched in 2023, the most since it happened seven times in 2018. Play begins at Wimbledon on July 3.

The All England Club will announce the men's and women's seeds Wednesday and is expected to simply follow the ATP and WTA rankings for those 32 berths



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, celebrates after defeating Alex de Minaur, of Australia, 6/4, 6/4 in their mens singles final match at the Queens Club tennis tournament in London, Sunday, June 25, 2023.
Associated Press

in each 128-player singles draw. That would put Alcaraz and the leading woman, Iga Swiatek, in the top line of each bracket. Swiatek remained at No. 1 as she has for every week since first climbing to that position in April 2022 on Monday, a little more than two weeks after she won the French Open for the

third time. Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka kept her hold on No. 2, and defending Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina is at No. 3. Jessica Pegula moved up to No. 4, switching with No. 5 Caroline Garcia. Wimbledon's seedings used to be based on a formula that took into account players' recent

success there and at other events contested on grass courts.

But with only the rankings mattering now, there is the unusual situation of even last year's results at the All England Club not mattering because the ATP and WTA chose to withhold all rankings points that would have been earned at Wim-

bledon in 2022 to protest the club's decision to ban players from Russia and Belarus over the invasion of Ukraine. Djokovic has won Wimbledon each of the past four times it was held in 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022; the tournament was canceled in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic and seven times in all. "I mean, Novak is the main favorite to win Wimbledon. That's obvious," Alcaraz said. "But I will try to play at this level, to have chances to beat him or make the final at Wimbledon."

If they are indeed seeded Nos. 1 and 2, Alcaraz and Djokovic could meet only in the championship match on July 16. At Roland Garros, Alcaraz was the No. 1 seed for the first time at a Grand Slam tournament, while Djokovic was No. 3, and they were drawn to meet in the semifinals. The first two sets were terrific, but then Alcaraz faded because of full-body cramps he attributed, at least in part, to tension, and Djokovic took the last two sets 6-1, 6-1 on the way to the trophy. □

Griner chosen as an WNBA All-Star starter with Wilson and Stewart captains again

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Brittney Griner will be starting in the WNBA All-Star Game a year after she was an honorary choice by the league while she was being detained in Russia.

The Phoenix Mercury's center was chosen by fans, media and players Sunday for her ninth All-Star game. Last season all the players wore Griner No. 42 jerseys for the second half of the game that was played in Chicago.

A'ja Wilson and Breanna Stewart were the top voter getters among fans and will be the captains of the two teams when the game is played in Las Vegas on July 15.

The two players were also captains last year and are each making their fifth All-Star appearances. Wilson's

team won the game last year.

Stewart was thrilled to have the chance to play with Griner again.

"I think all of us are really inspired in what she's doing and the way she's kind of handling herself," Stewart said of Griner. "So it's an-

other moment to just continue to celebrate her and watch her do her thing on the court."

As far as drafting Griner, Stewart hopes she gets the opportunity although Wilson has the first pick. Wilson led the fan vote with Stewart second. Stewart

was the top choice among players and the media with Wilson second.

"Team Wilson is backkkkk," Wilson tweeted. "super blessed! thank you all who voted time to turn up the city ...AGAIN"

Other frontcourt players chosen to start include rookie Aliyah Boston of the Indiana Fever. She would be the first rookie to start an All-Star game since Shoni Schimmel did it in 2014. Overall eight rookies have been chosen to start the All-Star Game.

Satou Sabally of Dallas and Nneka Ogumike of Los Angeles round out the frontcourt starters.

"It's one of the ultimate honors," said Ogumike. "Being named a starter or an All-Star at all is always a blessing. I am humbled to be able to play alongside such talented, professional

women showcasing their amazing skills and athleticism to the fans."

The backcourt starters are Las Vegas teammates Chelsea Gray and Jackie Young, Seattle's Jewell Loyd and Dallas' Arike Ogunbowale.

The reserves will be chosen by the league's head coaches, who will choose three guards, five frontcourt players and four at either position. Coaches can't vote for their own players. The reserves will be announced on July 1.

Stewart and Wilson will draft their rosters on July 8.

Fan balloting accounts for 50% of the vote to determine starters for the game. WNBA players and a media panel account for 25% each. Player's scores were calculated by averaging their weighted rank from the three groups. □



Phoenix Mercury center Brittney Griner walks on the court before the team's WNBA basketball game against the Washington Mystics, Friday, June 16, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press



Ticket sales and anticipation are high ahead of Lionel Messi's arrival at Inter Miami

By ALANIS THAMES

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — There are reminders around the city of Miami of Lionel Messi's impending arrival: A mural of the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner painted with pink and black Inter Miami colors in the artsy Wynwood neighborhood. Another painting of the soccer star at the entrance of a local Argentinian restaurant. No. 10 Argentina jerseys sprinkled throughout the city. Messi, who turned 36 this month, announced on June 7 that he was joining Inter Miami in a move that stunned the soccer world and will bring one of the sport's biggest names to the United States and Miami, where enthusiasm for the sport has been growing over the years.

Messi, who spent the past two years with Paris Saint-Germain is still finalizing paperwork with his new club, but he is expected to make his Inter Miami debut at a July 21 home game against Cruz Azul in the Leagues Cup.



Lionel Messi controls the ball during Argentine soccer player Maximiliano Rodriguez's farewell match at the Marcelo Bielsa stadium in Rosario, Argentina, Saturday, June 24, 2023.

The move is hoped to provide a huge boost to attendance and interest in Major League Soccer ahead of the 2026 World Cup, part of which will be hosted in the U.S., as well as for Inter Miami, a club led by another global soccer icon, David Beckham, that is looking to

garner the same popularity as other sports franchises in South Florida.

"He's going to be able to leave this wonderful legacy, and it's a legacy that couldn't be better timed," said Anson Dorrance, who is in his 47th season as the women's soccer coach at

North Carolina. "We're going to be hosting the next World Cup on the men's side ... And a part of constructing a platform to make sure we sell out every stadium is to make sure our top men's professional league, the MLS, is also selling out all of our stadiums."

The league is already getting there. Ticket prices for Inter Miami matches have skyrocketed since Messi's announcement and teams are already selling additional tickets to future matches against the club. According to data provided by Vivid Seats, a ticket resale and exchange site, the average listed price for Inter Miami's match against Cruz Azul in July jumped from \$126 on June 6 (one day before Messi's announcement) to \$2,151 on June 20 a 1,607% increase. Site traffic, the company said, increased by 27,037% from June 6 to June 7.

On SeatGeek, another ticket exchange site, the average ticket to watch an Inter Miami match was \$34 on June 6. On June 7, it was \$178, according to data provided by the company. "Messi is one of the greatest athletes of all time, and he is attracting huge demand for the chance to see him play in Miami and across the U.S.," said Chris Leyden, SeatGeek's director of growth marketing. □

Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds among new investors backing F1 team Alpine

BOULOGNE-BILLANCOURT, France (AP) — After soccer, Hollywood stars Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney are setting their sights on Formula One. F1 team Alpine has secured a 200 million euro (\$218 million) investment from a group of investors that includes the actors. French automotive company Renault Group Alpine's parent company said Monday that the group has acquired a 24% stake in the team. It includes Otro Capital, RedBird Capital Partners and Maximum Effort Investments, which is

led by Reynolds. "The transaction values Alpine Racing Ltd. around \$900 million following this investment," the team said in a statement. "It will accelerate Alpine's growth plans and sporting ambitions in F1." Other investors include actor Michael B. Jordan. Reynolds and McElhenney completed a \$2.5 million takeover of Welsh soccer team Wrexham in November 2020. The club was thrust into the global spotlight because of its A-list owners and secured promotion to the fourth tier of

English soccer this season. With drivers Pierre Gasly and Esteban Ocon, Alpine stands fifth in the constructors' championship. The team was fourth in the constructors' standings last year and has been struggling in its goal to close the gap on Red Bull, Ferrari and Mercedes this season. Renault said the investors have an expertise in the sports industry, having previously worked with the Dallas Cowboys, Fenway Sports Group, the NFL, French soccer club Toulouse and Wrexham. □



Alpine driver Pierre Gasly, of France, comes onto the track during the Formula One Canadian Grand Prix auto race Sunday, July 18, 2023, in Montreal.

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